

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN  
PARAPSYCHOLOGISTS: THE EURO-PA

Deborah L. Delanoy  
Psychology Department  
University of Edinburgh

Abstract

European parapsychologists face a set of inter-related problems which militate against the existence of an effective communication and collaboration network between researchers. Primary among these problems are language differences, the physical isolation of many researchers, the dwindling number of established research centers and a lack of funding. In an attempt to combat some of these difficulties, European parapsychological researchers have started to hold an annual conference, the Euro-PA. The history and goals of the Euro-PA are discussed, and its effectiveness in overcoming some of the problems facing European parapsychologists is considered. A questionnaire was circulated to European parapsychologists collecting their opinions on a variety of questions relevant to communication and collaboration issues. The responses to this questionnaire are presented.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to John Beloff, Robert Morris and Caroline Watt for their helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

Good communication and collaboration among researchers are of paramount importance in any field of study. In a relatively small field such as parapsychology, where researchers are often working in relative isolation from their colleagues, the importance of a good communication and collaboration network is greatly increased. Parapsychology, in common with other disciplines, publishes a variety of journals and has a professional body, the Parapsychology Association (PA), which sponsors an annual convention, among many other activities, which helps to provide such a network. But, are these conventional means successful in providing the necessary communication/collaboration network?

Researchers in parapsychology living in Europe confront a set of inter-related problems, none unique to the European situation, which may be seen as militating against the success of these conventional communication and collaboration strategies. Primary among these problems are language differences, the physical isolation of many researchers from each other and from established research centers, the dwindling number of established research centers, and, last but by no means least, a lack of funding. It is not the intention of this paper to examine these various problems in detail. Instead, the reasons why these factors can defeat the conventional communication/collaboration means will be highlighted. The efforts being made by European parapsychologists to combat these difficulties will be discussed, and data collected examining the opinions of European PA members to a variety of communication and collaboration issues will be presented.

The problems raised by the language differences found between researchers living in different countries has recently been admirably addressed by Carlos Alvarado (1989) in his article "The Language Barrier in Parapsychology". In this article Alvarado describes the various problems which arise from language differences, the most important being that researchers, particularly those for whom English is their first language, are unaware of important work which has been and/or is being conducted by non-English speaking researchers. As Alvarado notes, such ignorance has detrimental consequences:

"Clearly, a researcher should be aware of any publication in his or her field of speciality, not only for complete coverage, but also for practical reasons, such as having knowledge of successful or failed replications, avoiding the repetition of mistakes or problems found in previous work, and obtaining ideas for further work." (Alvarado, 1989, p. 129)

These problems are compounded by the numerous languages spoken within the relatively small geographic area of Europe. While many Europeans, especially non-native English speakers, are commonly fluent in several languages, there are few who have mastered all the languages which would be necessary to have a comprehensive knowledge of all the parapsychologically-relevant work published in Europe. Another problem created by language differences concerns more direct communication between European parapsychologists. Since most Europeans know some English,

this tends to be the language used when one is trying to reach a broad European audience. Hence, the European Journal of Parapsychology (EJP) is published in English, as are a few other parapsychologically-oriented European journals and bulletins (e.g., the Synchronicity Research Unit Bulletin, the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research and Theoretical Parapsychology). But, many Europeans, even those who are multi-lingual, do not have a truly fluent command of English. This can make direct communication between individual researchers very difficult, as one may lack the necessary vocabulary with which to express one's ideas and/or comprehend those of others. These difficulties can defeat attempts at communication and make any form of collaboration exceedingly difficult.

Another problem which hinders communication and collaboration among researchers involves the geographic isolation of researchers from each other and from centers of research. The lone researcher often lacks the facilities, technical knowledge, and equipment necessary to conduct research which would be considered competent by current, justifiably demanding, standards. And, as shall be discussed, research centers which could supply these are an increasingly rare commodity in Europe, as elsewhere. Also the psychological effects of being isolated from one's colleagues can be very demoralizing. One needs colleagues who understand the complexities of our field, with whom one can explore new ideas, etc. Communicating with distant colleagues, even when no language barrier is present, can still be a difficult undertaking. While modern technology has provided us with some excellent communication aids, many individual researchers do not have access to a fax machine or computerized electronic mail, and the telephone can be prohibitively expensive. The postal services can provide an affordable alternative, but it is nonetheless a very time-consuming and frustrating means of exchanging information, as it entails long delays between each communication.

The lack of research centers in Europe is another major obstacle to communication and collaboration between European researchers. With the recent demise of the Parapsychology Laboratory at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, the only remaining parapsychological research center, headed and staffed by full-time personnel who are PA members/associates, which has the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out a wide variety of research is the Koestler Chair of Parapsychology, located at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Unfortunately Scotland, whilst a very favorable location in many respects, is not centrally located with respect to continental Europe. And regrettably, the Koestler Chair does not currently have the resources necessary to sponsor research in other countries nor to have guest researchers come and work at Edinburgh. This lack of research centers also results in employment opportunities within the field of parapsychology in Europe being virtually non-existent.

There are several other research groups in Europe. These groups generally lack the resources associated with a fully functioning research laboratory, and are most commonly 'staffed' by dedicated part-time researchers, who must look to other full-time occupations to support themselves and their families. Given the limited resources of these groups, they tend, quite sensibly, to concentrate upon fairly specific

lines of research. This can sometimes have the result of further isolating other researchers/research groups, who although living in relative proximity to the research group, have differing research interests and/or perspectives. Nonetheless, despite the many obstacles which confront such groups, they continue to play a very important role in European research.

The lack of funding is undoubtably the greatest problem facing European parapsychology, a problem shared by the field in general. This problem underlies all the others mentioned thus far, and is the main contributor to the difficulty of solving them. We lack the funds to hire translators which could help resolve the problems raised by differing languages. And while many European researchers are multi-lingual, being (relatively) fluent in a language(s) does not necessarily involve having the skill required to accurately translate carefully worded technical papers. Furthermore, most multi-lingual researchers are unable to support themselves via parapsychology (due to lack of funding), and must turn to other occupations for their livelihood. Thus, even those that do have the ability usually do not have the time to act as translators, either for their own work, or that of others. The lack of funding also means that most individual researchers and research groups lack the resources necessary to conduct many types of work and are unable to communicate with others as readily as is desirable. Indeed, most European researchers find it impossible even to attend conferences which are not located in their vicinity. The lack of research laboratories in Europe is a direct consequence of the lack of funding, which subsequently leads to the virtual complete lack of employment opportunity within parapsychology in Europe. Furthermore, lest we become myopic, it must be remembered that in Europe generally, there has been a marked reduction in funding for academic and research purposes for all fields in recent years. This reduction, whilst affecting all fields, will be especially felt in areas such as parapsychology which, at the best of times, has never enjoyed more than a subsistence level of funding.

One means of responding to these problems would be to hold meetings in Europe specifically for European parapsychologists which would provide the opportunity for greater communication and collaboration between researchers. This idea was put forth by Martin Johnson, who proposed creating a European branch of the PA, in 1976 (Johnson, 1976). Johnson (1978) raised the issue again in 1978, and in 1979 he announced the formation of a European regional branch of the Parapsychological Association (ERPA) (Johnson, 1979). One objective of this group was to arrange regional colloquia for PA members/associates, active in research, where they could exchange ideas and receive constructive criticism of proposed research projects. The other primary objective was 'to stimulate and guide students and persons interested in carrying out some piece of research but living in areas which are less integrated in the main stream of parapsychological research' (Johnson, 1979, p.2). According to John Beloff, who was elected to the working-committee, the ERPA met a few times at other conferences (PA conventions and SPR conferences), but never held a meeting independently of another organization. Apparently, even these rather informal meetings ceased in the early 1980's (Beloff, 1990).

The idea of having a specific meeting for European parapsychologists was revived in the late 1980's. Again, it was thought that a conference for European PA members and researchers would help address some of the communication/collaboration problems discussed above. The necessity for a European parapsychology conference, in addition to the annual PA convention, stemmed from many European parapsychologists being unable to afford either the time or the money to travel to the PA conferences when they are held outside of Europe, as is usually the case. Thus, it was decided to hold a three day conference for European PA members and associates who were actively pursuing parapsychological research. This conference was brought about by the combined efforts of Jeff Jacobs and Hans Michels of the Synchronicity Research Unit (SRU), Dick Bierman of Amsterdam, and Robert Morris from the Edinburgh research unit.

The first meeting of European members/associates of the Parapsychology Association (Euro-PA) was held during October 1988, in Holland. The format for the first conference was that each participant was required to make a brief presentation lasting no longer than fifteen minutes, which would be followed by a lengthy discussion period of approximately 30 minutes. With the format being aimed at encouraging open discussion, attendance was to be limited to 25 participants, and in fact, only 23 attended. Given the funding situation in Europe, conference costs were kept to a minimum. Holland was chosen as a venue as it occupies a relatively central European location, thus being readily, and relatively inexpensively, accessible to many Europeans. There were no registration fees, and a very pleasant yet inexpensive venue was found for the conference. Costs were further reduced by having participants make their own bed, assist with serving food and clearing tables, and performing our own bar catering. These measures resulted in an eminently affordable conference, a necessary and much appreciated feature.

A wide variety of primarily theoretical and methodological topics were discussed the first two days of the conference, and the half-day session of the third day was devoted to a roundtable discussion about inter-laboratory research (for further details of the conference see Blackmore, 1989). The primary outcome of this first conference was that communication between researchers was greatly improved. The lengthy discussions which followed each presentation, and continued during the breaks, over meals, and at the bar into the not-so-wee hours of the morning, resulted in all of us having a much better knowledge and understanding of each other, our ideas and perspectives, and our individual problems in pursuing parapsychological research. In short, it was a great success and it was unanimously decided to hold a second conference. Further, it is thought that most participants would agree they left the conference with renewed enthusiasm and increased impetus to continue pursuing their parapsychological work, despite the many difficulties this entailed.

Before holding the second Euro-PA conference the Edinburgh research unit circulated a questionnaire to all European members and associates of the PA, eliciting their opinions on a variety of issues concerning the

organization of the Euro-PA and other topics relevant to European parapsychological research. Of 58 questionnaires distributed, 28 were returned. Those who returned questionnaires tended to be those most actively engaged in conducting parapsychological research. The answers received to the questionnaire were to be adopted as policy in those cases where a clear majority opinion had been expressed, and in other cases, these issues would be discussed and decisions made at a business meeting which was held at the end of the next Euro-PA conference (which occurred in November 1989). It should perhaps be mentioned, that at the second annual Euro-PA meeting there was no restriction on the number of people attending the conference, excepting that one had to be a member or associate of the PA. The main points raised by this questionnaire which are relevant to the issues of communication and collaboration related to the main goals of the Euro-PA and its administration/coordination (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the questionnaire and a summary of the responses received).

The questions regarding administration and coordination were of primary importance. A key question regarded whether European parapsychologists should establish a formal organization. A related question involved whether to organize by country. Given the many different countries represented by the Euro-PA members and the different, sometimes divergent, research interests contained in each country, was it best to have a committee established in each country, elected by the PA members and associates of that country, to coordinate communication within that country, or would it be preferable to have a central organizational committee? The responses to the above questions were clear cut. Approximately 65 per cent of the responses favored having one central committee whose membership would rotate annually, and only one respondent wished to see committees organized by country. Furthermore, the majority opinion was against establishing a formal organization, the primary reason for this appearing to be the lack of resources to support such an organization.

Other questions were asked regarding whether there should be an annual conference. Twenty-five (89 per cent) of the respondents favored having an annual conference. Other decisions regarding the conference were: the short paper, long discussion format would be retained; the conference would be open to all PA members, associates, affiliates and a limited number of invited guests; each conference would focus on a wide variety of issues as opposed to one specific topic; conference presentations would be refereed, the location of the conferences should vary throughout Europe; and a major priority was that conference costs should be kept as low as possible.

Other questions posed regarded fund-raising, public relations, inter-lab research, and publications. With regard to fund-raising, ten (36 per cent) of the respondents were in favor of conducting fund-raising projects, but only one was willing to help with the organization and administration of such projects. It was ultimately decided that fund-raising activities were outside the scope of an informal organization with an annually rotating committee. However, it was stated at the

business meeting following the second Euro-PA conference, that members would make an effort to keep one another informed of possible funding sources, and that this would continue to be a topic of discussion. Indeed, an informative presentation on how to pursue funding for research projects had already been presented at the conference (Parker, 1989) (for further information on the second Euro-PA conference, see Watt, 1990).

The issue of public relations is complex given the many differences which exist among the European countries lay populations. While there is a generally high level of lay interest in parapsychology in Europe, this is especially marked in some countries, with The Netherlands possessing arguably the greatest degree of such lay interest. Other countries are confronted by a most vociferous sceptical community, West Germany being a notable example. Much of the discussion regarding public relations had focused on the interest accorded our field by the lay population. To address and support this population, several members were in favor of supporting a popular journal where formally conducted research, including that published in our professional journals, would be re-written in a manner accessible to laymen. Here again, language difficulties intervened. It was feared that an English language journal would not address the needs of many non-English speaking laymen, and producing such a journal in several languages was obviously beyond the means of the Euro-PA members. In the end, it was decided that the pursuing of both public relations and publication activities per se were beyond the scope of the Euro-PA members. However, with regard to professional publications, at the business meeting a motion to support the European Journal of Parapsychology by publishing research in that journal was strongly carried.

Twenty-one (75 per cent) of the respondents thought that inter-laboratory research projects should be a priority of the Euro-PA, with eleven indicating interest in participating in such projects. Supporting this idea is difficult due to many reasons previously discussed (e.g., lack of labs, distance between researchers, lack of funds, etc.). Nonetheless, means of making inter-lab (or inter-researcher, as the case may be) research more of a reality continues to be a topic for active discussion, and as shall be shortly discussed, some strides are occurring in that direction.

One final comment about the Euro-PA concerns language. The question of language was not raised in the questionnaire, as prior to holding the first conference, it was decided that English would be spoken at the conference, and indeed, all communications about the conference, and the Euro-PA in general, have been in English. The reason for this is simply that it is the language of which the greatest number of Euro-PA members have at least some knowledge. Yet, some of our members, even those who are multi-lingual, find communication in English very difficult. And as previously mentioned, not only is it difficult for some to express themselves in English, also it can be difficult for others to understand them, especially those for whom English is not their first language. Also, there have been a few instances where language difficulties have dissuaded researchers from attending the Euro-PA

conferences. Furthermore, it has been evident during the discussion periods, that some conference participants find communicating their ideas in English problematic, and therefore are less active in the discussions. The possibility of hiring translators was raised, and rejected for obvious financial reasons. Thus, for lack of a better alternative, English has been adopted as the language of the Euro-PA, although it offers a less than ideal solution to the language problem.

Also, language problems may be a contributing factor to an observed north/south divide which has occurred at the two Euro-PA conferences held thus far. Most conference participants are from northern European countries, most notably Great Britain, West Germany and Holland, while no one living in Spain or Italy (southern, Mediterranean countries) has attended the conferences as yet. There are many possible reasons other than languages differences for this apparent divide, such as differing approaches/interests, standards and the more northerly-oriented location (in The Netherlands) of the two previous Euro-PA's. Partially as an attempt to address a few of these possibilities, the 1990 Euro-PA will be held in France, a country which occupies a central location having boundaries with both 'northern and southern' European countries. If the reason for the lack of southern participation is location, as opposed to language, it is hoped that the 1990 conference will attract attendees from the southern countries. However, if language is an important factor in the north/south divide, simply shifting the location of the conference is likely to have little effect.

The primary problem facing European researchers has been identified as a lack of funding. The Euro-PA has not been able to find a direct answer to this problem, and, as discussed above, given its (lack of) organization, it is not in a position to do so. The most the Euro-PA has been able to accomplish thus far is to host very low cost conferences, which makes the conferences more accessible to its members. Yet there are still potential Euro-PA participants who, not living on the continental mainland, find travel expenses a prohibitive factor. On occasion the PA has provided travel grants for a limited number of overseas attendees who would have otherwise been unable to attend the annual convention. Indeed, this year the PA has dedicated \$2000.00 for this purpose. This is an excellent idea, and it will be suggested at the business meeting of the third Euro-PA (to be held in France in October 1990), that we adopt a similar scheme which would be funded by charging all conference participants a minimal fee on top of that required to meet conference expenses.

However, there are several indirect ways in which the Euro-PA may have a positive effect upon the European funding situation. One such means involves the Euro-PA's decision to invite researchers from other fields to our conferences. Parapsychology is an interdisciplinary field, and through increased interaction with those from other related fields, there may arise joint research projects which examine issues of concern to both parapsychology and other fields. Such projects may have better funding opportunities than do projects concerned solely with parapsychological issues. Another possible way the Euro-PA could serve to indirectly aid



the funding situation, is via the increased communication with one another that has resulted from the conferences. Most European countries (those who are members of the European Economic Community or EEC) are currently combining economic forces, and in 1992 many economic boundaries which have previously separated these European countries will cease to exist. One outcome of this is that research proposals which involve researchers and institutions in different EEC countries are currently being encouraged by the various governmental bodies who normally finance scientific research, via the offering of preferential consideration to such joint research proposals. The increased communication among researchers stemming from the Euro-PA conferences may encourage the formation of such joint research projects. Also, while this is purely speculation, we may also shortly be finding similar funding encouragement (from the EEC or specific governments) to conduct joint research projects with those countries which were previously behind the 'iron curtain'. Again, the Euro-PA offers an excellent means of bringing such researchers together.

Language also remains a problem for which no immediate solution is apparent. To this observer, it appears that most of the younger members of the Euro-PA are increasingly fluent in spoken English. Yet an increasing level of fluency in English does not necessarily address many of the problems that Alvarado (1989) noted, as writing and translating in English can remain a very difficult and time-consuming task. It should also be noted that the recent crumbling of the 'iron curtain' could increase the number of different languages encountered within European parapsychology (and all the problems inherent therein), although at the moment this is purely a manner of speculation.

In his article Alvarado (1989) suggests four strategies which could minimize the problems raised by language differences, namely: 1) publishing in English the summaries, bibliographies and reviews of works originally published in other languages; 2) English-language journals actively seeking and encouraging publication of the research of foreign-language speakers; 3) developing an active translation policy into English of works previously published in foreign languages; and, 4) efforts on the part of the PA to encourage greater foreign participation. These suggestions were aimed at the 'conventional' communication and collaboration network, and they are all excellent strategies, the implementation of which would benefit all. However, as Alvarado notes 'possible solutions such as conferences and translations may prove to be expensive and, consequently, beyond the means of groups and individuals' (pg. 134). As has previously been discussed, they would certainly be beyond the means of the European parapsychology community.

There is one problem area which, in the opinion of the author, the Euro-PA has successfully addressed. It has decreased the isolation of individual researchers and of research groups from each other and, by this means, greatly increased communication and collaboration between individual researchers and also between the various research groups. As has been previously stated, as a consequence of the conferences we know one another better on a personal level, and have a much better

understanding of each other's ideas and research perspectives. We are able to exchange research ideas and learn of specific developments made by members, who have thus far always expressed a willingness to share ideas, software developments, etc. Also, it should be noted that this increase in communication has not been restricted to those who attend the conferences. Via the questionnaire, all Euro-PA members were able to voice an opinion of what they wanted to see develop in European parapsychology. Indeed, over a third of the returned questionnaires (36 per cent) were received from people who have not attended a Euro-PA conference, as of yet. Also, all Euro-PA members are kept abreast of developments via mailings, regardless of whether they attend the conference or return questionnaires. And, as reflected by our mailing list, the number of Euro-PA members has increased by over twelve per cent since the first Euro-PA conference. With recent developments in Eastern Europe, we hope we will see further increases in the near future. In an attempt to further aid communication, a directory is being compiled by the Edinburgh research unit which will be sent to all Euro-PA members. While similar to the PA directory, it includes some additional information, such as whether members are interested in conducting research and/or corresponding with one another, and whether they have other areas of expertise relevant to but outwith parapsychology per se about which they would be willing to offer help and advice. It is hoped that by having a separate directory, focused on European parapsychologists, members will be further encouraged to interact with one another.

Thus, while many of the problems facing European parapsychologists remain unaddressed, the formation of the Euro-PA has done much to improve communication and collaboration between researchers. There is still much room for improvement, and it is hoped that future years will produce greater interaction and see the development of inter-lab research projects. At the least, the Euro-PA has provided us with an opportunity to improve some of the circumstances confronting European parapsychology, and it places us in a better position to take advantage of other opportunities which may develop.

References

- Alvarado, Carlos A. (1989) The language barrier in parapsychology. Journal of Parapsychology, Vol. 53, No. 2., pp. 125-139
- Beloff, John (1990) personal communication
- Blackmore, Susan (1989) 1988 Euro-PA Conference. Parapsychology Review, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 5-7
- Johnson, Martin (1976) Some reflections after the P.A. Convention. European Journal of Parapsychology, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 1-5
- Johnson, Martin (1978) Are we ready for the establishment of a European branch of the Parapsychological Association. European Journal of Parapsychology, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 203-205
- Johnson, Martin (1979) The European regional branch of the Parapsychological Association (ERPA) is now established. European Journal of Parapsychology, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 1-2
- Parker, Adrian (1989) Applying for Research Funding in Parapsychology. Paper presented to the Second Annual Euro-PA Conference, Vught, The Netherlands, Nov. 10-12
- Watt, Caroline (1990) Euro-PA 1989. Parapsychology Review, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 10-11

Appendix 1

The Euro-PA Questionnaire: The Questions and a Summary of the Responses (the numbers given refer to the number of respondents answering the specific question; 58 questionnaires were sent out and 28 were returned)

EURO-PA QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

Country:

When completing this questionnaire, please feel free to write on the back of the sheets, or include other sheets, if you need more space than has been provided for your answers.

1. What should the main Euro-PA goals be? Please tick as many of the following as appropriate:

25 An annual conference  
7 I would be willing to help with the organization and administration of the conference

10 Fund-raising  
1 I would be willing to help with the organization and administration of fund-raising projects

18 Public relations/publications  
15 I would be willing to help with public relations  
15 I would be willing to help with publications

21 Inter-lab research projects  
11 I would be interested in participating in inter-lab research projects

       Other (please specify):

4 generally supporting parapsych.or interdisciplinary research  
1 education (workshops, etc.)  
1 scientific recognition of European parapsychology  
3 contact with each other

2. What type of administration or coordination would be needed to achieve these goals?

a. Do you think there should be just one central Euro-PA committee, or different committees for specific areas (conference committee, public relations committee, etc)? If so, please specify which committees you think should be established.

17 one central committee  
7 few smaller committees  
1 minimum possible committees

b. Do you have any other suggestions as to means of organizing the administration and coordination of the Euro-PA? How formal an organization do you think we need? Should it be organized by country as well?

- 1 formal organisation similar to PA
- 3 formal European branch of PA
- 5 against a formal organisation
- 7 semi-formal organisation
- 12 against organising by country
- 1 for organising by country
- 1 affiliation with other scientific bodies

c. How should we attempt to ensure rotation of responsibilities whilst maintaining continuity? Should we have an election at each annual meeting?

- 16 in favour of annual election
- 2 infrequent election
- 2 postal vote
- 6 voluntary duties
- 1 decide Euro-PA aims first

3. Would you normally be interested in attending an annual Euro-PA conference? (please circle)      Yes    23      No    2

if yes:

a. Please specify what the presentation format should be for the conference (e.g., short papers with long discussion periods, formal papers with shorter discussion periods, etc.). Should presentations be refereed?

- 18 short papers, long discussion
- 3 long papers, short discussion
- 4 flexible format
- 10 in favour of refereed papers
- 5 against refereed papers

b. Please express your views on whether the number of attendees for any given conference should be limited, whether non-PA members should attend, whether any restrictions should be applied to who makes presentations and/or enters into any discussion periods, and any guidelines which should be used in deciding the above.

Attendance?

- 6 PA members only
- 14 PA members plus guests/invited speakers
- 4 anyone can attend

Present?

- 4 no restrictions
- 2 PA present, guests attend
- 3 firm chairmanship

c. Would you like each conference to be centered around a specific problem area of parapsychology? If so, please specify different areas which you would like addressed by such a conference.

- 13 were against
- 4 partly/occasionally
- 2 specific topic linked to a general theme
- 1 healing

d. Should the conference be held in the same (centrally located) country each year, or should its location vary between different countries? Please list, in order of your preference, in what countries you would like the conference to be held. Also specify any countries which are located at such a distance from you that you would be unlikely to attend the conference if it were to be held there.

- 15 varying locations
- 7 central locations
- 3 Holland, 1 England, 1 France, 1 Italy
- 1 choose location for special reason

e. Should low cost be a priority in deciding the conference venue or would you prefer more expensive conference venues, facilities, etc.

- 18 in favour
- 2 low to medium cost

f. Please list in what months of the year it would be most convenient for you to attend the conference, and when it would be least convenient:

Opinion very varied, but generally May to October most favoured, November to April least favoured, with May and October the two most popular months.

4. If you think that fund-raising should be a priority of the Euro-PA, please provide further information as to any fund-raising strategies and/or projects which you think may be successful.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <u>Policy?</u>   | 5 against fund-raising as a priority   |
|                  | 2 Euro-PA support individual fund-raising activities, by letters of support or coordinating efforts to minimise interference |
| <u>Projects?</u> | 1 against use of professional fund raisers   |
|                  | 1 ask successful fund-raisers  |
|                  | 1 raffle of videos, RNGs, etc.   |
|                  | 1 seek practical spin-offs in applied psychology   |
|                  | 1 seek EEC support   |
|                  | 2 ask international companies for support  |
|                  | 1 use ESP/PK for small-scale gambling  |

5. Please provide further information regarding what, if any, public relations activities you think the Euro-PA should pursue. Also, it has been suggested that the general public may appreciate having a 'journal' available which presented high quality research in a popular, non-technical manner. Do you support this idea, and if so, would you be willing to contribute popular versions of any technical articles you may publish in other professional journals? As such a journal would need to be published in different languages according to country, would you be willing to help with the translation, editorial, and/or administrative work involved in producing such a journal in your country?

|                         |    |   |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| <u>Publicity?</u>       | 3  | occasional public/press releases by Euro-PA |
|                         | 2  | use existing media                          |
| <u>Popular Journal?</u> | 8  | in favour                                   |
|                         | 11 | against                                     |
|                         | 7  | volunteer to help write or produce          |
| <u>Other?</u>           | 1  | help translate popular books                |
|                         | 1  | produce six-monthly newsletter              |

6. Presently, the European Journal of Parapsychology (EJP) is the primary technically-oriented research journal published in Europe which is aimed at an exclusively professional parapsychological audience. (We now have the Journal of Theoretical Parapsychology as well.) The future of this journal is currently uncertain. Do you feel that the Euro-PA should be involved in supporting the continuance of EJP, or some other similar professionally-oriented journal? Would you be willing to contribute to such a publication as an author, editor, translator, and/or administrator?

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| <u>Support EJP/<br/>Technical Journal?</u> | 15 | for supporting EJP or similar technical journal                 |
|  | 9  | volunteer help to write or produce                              |
| <u>Other?</u>                              | 1  | combine EJP and JSPR resources                                  |
|  | 1  | Euro-PA supports but doesn't run a technical journal            |
|  | 1  | reorient present journals to wider field of abnormal psychology |
|  | 1  | too many technical journals                                     |

7. What other comments do you have?

- 1 EJP too dry
- 1 English should be the official Euro-PA conference language
- 1 Euro-PA should seek to affiliate with other scientific and professional bodies
- 1 membership of Euro-PA should be through contribution to development of parapsych. and election by council, as PA
- 1 Euro-PA members should lower barriers by writing articles for other professions
- 1 research would suffer if time devoted to popular journal
- 1 too few parapsychologists to allow Euro-PA to be active in public relations, fund-raising, publications